

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 L-02 MC-01 IGA-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15

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R 242015Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5467

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 0579

STATE FOR PM/SAS

DEPT PASS DOD/ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ MASS BL

SUBJECT: FY 76 AND FY 77 SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEVELS

REF: -. USCINCSO 152235Z JAN 75 B. COMUSMILGP LA PAZ 211938Z JAN 75
(BOTH BEING REPEATED)

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF (A) REPORTING STATE DEPT'S PROPOSED REDUCTIONS IN THE FY 76 AND FY 77 SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEVELS, USMILGP HAS REPORTED (REF B) THE SERIOUS IMPACT ON BOLIVIA'S MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IF THE GRANT MATERIAL LEVEL IS REDUCED TO US \$1.7 MILLION. I HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE MILGP MESSAGE AND CONCUR IN ITS CONTENTS.

2. AS THE DEPT IS AWARE, PRES BANZER ATTACHES THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO COMPLETELY EQUIPPING THE TIPO REGIMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MOREOVER, HE HAS EXPRESSED HIS GREAT CONCERN TO ASST SEC ROGERS AND TO ME OVER THE DELAYS IN DELIVERIES OF EQUIPMENT FOR THESE REGIMENTS. IN VIEW OF THIS, I DO NOT
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FEEL THAT WE HAVE ANY FLEXIBILITY IN REDUCING THE

\$1.3 MILLION LEVEL PROGRAMMED FOR THESE UNITS.
ANY REDUCTION WILL SERIOUSLY RETARD THE GOB'S
PROGRAM AND WILL REFLECT ADVERSELY ON USG.

3. THE \$0.4 MILLION BALANCE REMAINING WILL PRECLUDE
FUNDING MOST OF THE ITEMS WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL FOR
CONTINUATION OF PROGRAMS WITH THE AIR FORCE AND NAVY.
REDUCTION OF US PARTICIPATION IN THESE PROGRAMS WILL
CAUSE A MAJOR DISRUPTION IN GOB PLANS TO MODERNIZE
ITS FORCES AND TO IMPROVE ITS OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY.

4. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, I RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT
AUTHORIZE \$2.3 MILLION FOR FY 76 AND \$2.0 MILLION FOR
FY 77 FOR GRANT AID MATERIAL, AND \$0.6 MILLION FOR
TRAINING IN BOTH FISCAL YEARS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE
IG/ARA REDUCED THE FY 76 AMOUNT, EXPECTING THAT THERE
WOULD BE INCREASES IN FMS CREDITS. THERE ARE PRACTICAL
PROBLEMS IN INCREASING FMS IN PHASE WITH REDUCTIONS OF
MAP GRANTS FOR MATERIEL, A POLICY WHICH I FAVOR IF IT
WORKS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE DO NOT HAVE YET THE EXPECTED
\$4 MILLION FOR FY 1975 FMS. IN VIEW OF THIS AND THE
REASONS CITED ABOVE, I REQUEST FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION
FOR THE MODEST MAP GRANTS WE PROPOSED FOR FY 76 AND FY 77.
STEDMAN

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